

**REMARKS**

Claims 46-61 are presently pending in this application. New claims 46-61 have been added and claims 1-6 have been cancelled without prejudice in this response.

In the Final Office Action mailed June 16, 2006, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,142,779 to LaBounty ("LaBounty"). Claims 1-6 have been cancelled in this response and therefore the rejection of these claims is now moot.

New claims 46-61 are patentable over LaBounty because LaBounty fails to disclose or suggest all the features of these claims. For example, independent claim 46 is directed to a set of cutting blades in which the individual blades include, *inter alia*, a mount configured for attachment to a casing of a hand-held cutting tool such that a first section of a shear edge is positioned adjacent to a reciprocating cutting member and at a cutting zone for shearing a workpiece and a second section of the shear edge is spaced apart from the cutting zone. In contrast, LaBounty discloses a single blade 128 of which the entire cutting edge 138 is positioned to cut a tire. Therefore, LaBounty fails to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, a set of cutting blades in which the individual blades have a mount configured such that a first section of a shear edge is positioned at a cutting zone and a second section of the shear edge is spaced apart from the cutting zone.

Independent claim 56 is directed to a cutting blade including, *inter alia*, a hole configured to interface with a casing of a hand-held cutting tool such that the blade can be attached to the casing with a first shear face facing inward and only a first section of a shear edge positioned at a cutting zone for shearing a workpiece. The hole is further positioned such that the blade can be attached to the casing with a second shear face facing inward and only a second section of the shear edge positioned at the cutting zone. As noted above, the entire cutting edge 138 of LaBounty's blade 128 is positioned to cut a tire. Accordingly, LaBounty fails to disclose or suggest a cutting blade including, *inter alia*,

a hole positioned such that (a) the blade can be attached to a casing of a hand-held cutting tool with a first shear face facing inward and only a first section of a shear edge positioned at a cutting zone, and (b) the blade can be attached to the casing with a second shear face facing inward and only a second section of first shear edge positioned at the cutting zone. Accordingly, new claims 46-61 are patentable over LaBounty because LaBounty fails to disclose or suggest all the features of these claims.

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The applicants accordingly request reconsideration of the application and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned representative at (206) 359-6465.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
By

David T. Dutcher

Registration No.: 51,638  
PERKINS COIE LLP  
P.O. Box 1247  
Seattle, Washington 98111-1247  
(206) 359-8000  
(206) 359-7198 (Fax)  
Attorney for Applicant